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REMARKS

This response is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed February 7, 2007. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and further examination of the Application.

Claims 1-48 are currently pending in the application.

§ 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, claims 1-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0075680 filed by Grace, *et al.*, hereinafter "Grace" in view of U.S. Patent No.: 6,271,845 to Richardson, hereinafter "Richardson".

Brief Description of Additional Cited References

Briefly, Richardson describes a technique for drilling down through a health monitoring map to determine the health status and cause of health problems associated with network objects in a computer network. See Richardson, column 4, lines 62-67. According to the technique, network objects are contained in containers. The containers are represented on a display as an icon. The color of the icon is used to indicate whether there is a health problem with one or more objects contained in the container. If an icon is indicating that there is a health problem (e.g., an event or trap) with one or more objects contained in a particular container, a user may drill down through the health monitoring map to determine the cause of the problem by clicking on a series of icons until a message disclosing the cause of the health problem is displayed. See Richardson, column 11, line 29 through column 12, line 14, column 12, lines 27-46 and FIGS. 11-12.

Differences Between the Claimed Invention and the Cited References

Representative claim 1 recites:

1. A method to support displaying management information in a graphical user interface, the method comprising:
 - displaying a management information view that includes management information associated with at least one managed entity in a network;
 - displaying a drill down menu** associated with the management information view, **the drill down menu including selectable drill down options** that correspond to respective drill down functions selectively applied to the management information associated with the at least one managed entity;
 - identifying a selected drill down option chosen from the drill down menu;
 - producing a drill down view by applying the respective drill down function associated with the selected drill down option to the management information associated with the at least one managed entity, the produced drill down view including a presentation of the management information based on the applied respective drill down function; and
 - displaying the drill down view on the graphical user interface.

The Applicants respectfully submit that Grace and Richardson, taken either singly or in combination, do not teach or suggest the Applicants' claimed **displaying a drill down menu... the drill down menu including selectable drill down options** which is clearly present in the Applicants' claims 1-42.

The Examiner notes in the Office Action that Grace fails to teach a drill down view, drill down functions, associating selected drill down options with entity management information, or displaying the drill down view on a graphical user interface (GUI). The Applicants agree. Therefore, Grace would have no reason to display a drill down menu that includes selectable drill down options.

Richardson teaches drilling down through a health monitoring map to display an event or trap message; however, the drilling down is accomplished by clicking on a series of icons and not through the use of drill down menus. Therefore, Richardson would have no reason to display drill down menus that include selectable drill down options.

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The Applicants, on the other hand, clearly claim displaying a drill down menu that includes selectable drill down options. The options correspond to drill down functions that may be applied to management information to produce a drill down view. This is quite different than Richardson's technique for drilling down to a message which, as noted above, merely involves clicking on a series of icons and does not involve drill down menus.

For reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that Grace and Richardson, taken either singly or in combination, fail to disclose the Applicants' claimed ***displaying a drill down menu... the drill down menu including selectable drill down options***. Therefore the Applicants respectfully request that the above rejections to claims 1-42 be withdrawn.

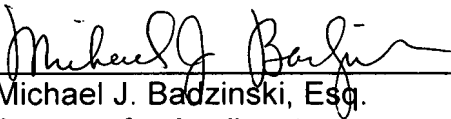
CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-3735.

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 616-9660, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,



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